

The
Washington
State
Child Support
Enforcement
Program

**Across
State
Lines**



Washington State
Department of
Social & Health
Services

Division of Child Support

The Washington State Child Support Enforcement Program

Federal legislation required all states to adopt uniform interstate child support laws by January 1, 1998. The required law is called the “Uniform Interstate Family Support Act” (UIFSA). Washington State passed UIFSA legislation in 1994. Because the law is new in a number of states, interstate child support cases may not always be handled as smoothly as we expect. Different states have different levels of resources for their child support programs and different state laws which may also affect the progress of your case.

Can I collect child support if the other parent is in another state?

QA In most cases, yes. When the other parent resides in a state that has enacted UIFSA, the Division of Child Support (DCS) may be able to send a notice for wage withholding directly to the employer. Direct enforcement of a requirement to provide health insurance may also be possible. If other remedies like bank account withholds or license suspension are needed, DCS must send a request to the other state asking for help with enforcement. When we send a referral to another state, we have no direct influence over how they process the case. Each state has its own laws and policies regarding child support.

DCS can also collect **from** a parent in Washington State **for** a custodial parent in another state.

How do I ask DCS to perform these services for me?

QA If you receive public assistance from Washington State, DCS is already working for you. DCS may periodically ask you for more recent information about the other parent's address or employer.

If you do not receive public assistance, DCS provides enforcement services for you upon written request. These are free services that are available to you even if you live in another state. To receive an application for support enforcement services, call 1-800-442-KIDS.

How long will it take to collect my child support from another state?

QA The length of time depends on many things. If you do not have a support order, one will have to be established. This may take several months or longer. If you have a support order that requires the child support be paid through the Washington State Support Registry and DCS can issue a wage withholding order directly to an employer, it may take

as little as 30 days. If DCS needs to request help from the other state, it may take six months or longer. It takes longer if the other parent:

- Moves from job to job.
- Changes residences frequently.
- Is unemployed and does not receive unemployment compensation.
- Works for cash.
- Is self-employed.
- Receives public assistance or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Is in jail or a rehabilitation facility.
- Resides on an Indian Reservation.
- Is employed by a tribe, tribal enterprise, or an Indian-owned business located on an Indian reservation or trust land.

The other state may not be successful at all. However, on all cases, both states continue to check federal, state, and local resources for the obligated parent's address and assets.

Is there a charge for these services?

Washington provides child support services at no charge to you. If Washington asks another state to help collect support, that state might charge fees or recover the costs of their services. A state may charge the paying parent or the custodial parent. They may take these charges out of the support they collect from the paying parent.

What Information does DCS need from me?

Give DCS as much information as possible. Helpful information about the other parent includes:

- The full name and social security number of the other parent.
- Any other name the other parent may use.
- The last-known address of the other parent.
- The other parent's date and place of birth.
- The other parent's current or last-known employer.
- When and where the parent lived with the child.
- Names of trade or union affiliations past and present.
- Professional licenses past and present.

Helpful documents include:

- A decree of dissolution or divorce, or a child support order.
- A paternity order if you were not married to the father of the child.
- An acknowledgment of paternity if it has the other parent's signature on it.
- Information about changes in custody or residence of the children.
- An up-to-date payment record.
- Children's birth certificates.

Keep DCS informed of:

- Any changes to your address or phone number.
- The other parent's address changes.
- Any changes in the other parent's employment.
- Assets owned by the other parent, such as bank accounts, vehicles or investments.

Can the other state change the amount of current support in my order or the amount of back support the other parent owes me?

QA In most cases, no. Before UIFSA, when a state was asked to enforce an order it was possible to adjust the amount of current support using the enforcing state's child support guidelines. They could also enter a judgment for the amount of past support. When an obligated parent moved from state to state the result was often a different order for a different amount. Under UIFSA, a state is required to give full faith and credit to the orders issued by another state. All states should enforce only one order for the same parties. If you are owed child support arrears because the other parent failed to pay support in the past, another state that is enforcing child support for you should not be able to change that amount. Either party to a child support order retains the right to petition for a modification of the monthly child support amount at any time.

What do I do if the out-of-state parent moves?

QA If you know the new address, tell DCS immediately. If you do not know the new address, or if the other state tells DCS that the parent's location is unknown, DCS uses its information resources to try to find the parent's new address and employer.

Can I collect child support if the other parent lives in another country?

QA In some cases, yes. DCS has international agreements with the following countries:

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|---------------|------------------|----------------------|
| ■ Canada | ■ Germany | ■ Czech Republic |
| ■ Fiji | ■ France | ■ Slovak Republic |
| ■ Bermuda | ■ Poland | ■ Republic of Africa |
| ■ Jamaica | ■ Hungary | ■ Sweden |
| ■ Mexico | ■ Norway | |
| ■ New Zealand | ■ United Kingdom | |
| ■ Austria | ■ Ireland | |

The following territories have child support programs funded by the U.S. Government:

- Guam
- Puerto Rico
- Virgin Islands

The Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa do not yet have a federally funded child support program. This makes establishment and collection of child support much more difficult.

Can DCS collect child support if the other parent lives on an Indian reservation or is employed by a tribe, tribal enterprise or an Indian-owned business located on a reservation or trust land?

DCS does not have authority to attach on-reservation assets and income without tribal consent but DCS may attach off-reservation assets and income.

There are 28 Native American Tribes in Washington State which are recognized as independent, sovereign governments with similar status as other states and foreign nations. Federally recognized tribes have exclusive jurisdiction over their tribal members and tribal lands, unless restricted by the federal government.

DCS is working with tribes to obtain agreements establishing procedures for use of tribal courts to establish and enforce child support obligations on Indian reservations.

How do I find out what's happening on my case?

You can call or write your local DCS office listed in this brochure for periodic updates. If DCS is taking direct withholding action, your Support Enforcement Officer can provide you with current information about your case. If DCS referred your case to another state, status information

may only be available at 90 day intervals. When you call DCS, the KIDS computer system answers your call. If you have a push-button telephone, you can get payment information without talking to an officer. The KIDS system will tell you the amount and date of the last payment DCS received for you.

I don't have a support order setting an amount for the other parent to pay. How do I get one?

Q Sometimes Washington can establish support even if the other parent does not live here. Otherwise, the state in which the parent lives can obtain an order for support. The order will set the amount of support the other parent is to pay you. The amount of support set will depend on:

- The child support guidelines.
- Your income.
- The other parent's income.
- The other parent's other child support obligations.

Persons with Disabilities:

If you need other special assistance (such as a sign language interpreter or an alternate format materials) because of a disability, we can provide help free of charge.

If you would like more information, you may contact the DCS field office for your county. Each office handles one or more counties. The offices and counties are listed below. You may also visit our Internet web site.

The Internet address is <http://www.wa.gov/dshs/dcs/>

DCS Offices

Everett

Everett Field Office
5415 Evergreen Way
PO Box 4282
Everett, WA 98203-9282
Office Hrs: 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m., Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (425) 438-4800 or (800) 729-7580
Fax: (425) 438-4879
TDD: (425)438-4939 or 1-800-241-9489
E-mail: everett-dcs@dshs.wa.gov

Fife

Fife Field Office
PO Box 2950
Tacoma, WA 98401-2950
Office Hrs: 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m., Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (253) 922-0454 or (866) 243-4449
Fax: (253) 926-0284
TTY: (866) 270-0832
E-mail: imail_fif@dshsmg1.dshs.wa.gov

Kennewick

Kennewick Field Office
500 N. Morain, #2210
PO Box 5550
Kennewick, WA 99336-0550
Office Hrs: 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m., Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (509) 374-2000 or (800) 345-9981
Fax: (509) 734-7251
TDD: (509) 734-7267
E-mail: kennewick-dcs@dshs.wa.gov

Olympia

Olympia Field Office
6135 Martin Way
PO Box 9209
Olympia, WA 98507-9209
Office Hrs: 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m., Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (360) 664-6900 or (800) 345-9964
TDD: (360) 438-8906
Fax: (360) 438-8520
E-mail: olympia-dcs@dshs.wa.gov

Counties served

Island, San Juan, Skagit,
Snohomish and Whatcom

Pierce, King, Kitsap

Benton, Columbia, Franklin,
and Walla Walla

Clallam, Grays Harbor,
Jefferson, Mason
and Thurston

DCS Offices

Counties served

Seattle

Seattle Field Office
500 First Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98104-2830
Office Hrs: 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m., Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (206) 341-7000 or (800) 526-8658
Fax: (206) 464-7449
TDD: (206) 464-7851
E-mail: seattle-dcs@dshs.wa.gov

King

Spokane

Spokane Field Office
W. 1608 Boone
PO Box 2560
Spokane, WA 99220-2560
Office Hrs: 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m., Mon.- Fri.
Phone: (509) 363-5000 or (800) 345-9982
Fax: (509) 456-4148
TDD: (509) 363-5080
E-mail: spokane-dcs@dshs.wa.gov

Asotin, Ferry, Garfield,
Lincoln, Pend Oreille,
Spokane, Stevens
and Whitman

Tacoma

Tacoma Field Office
2121 S. State Street
PO Box 1237
Tacoma, WA 98401-1237
Office Hours: 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m., Monday-Friday
Telephone: (253) 597-3700 or (800) 345-9976
Fax: (253) 597-3725
TDD: (253) 593-9976
E-mail: tacoma-dcs@dshs.wa.gov

Kitsap and Pierce

Vancouver

Vancouver Field Office
5411 E. Mill Planin Blvd., Building 3
PO Box 4269
Vancouver, WA 98662-0269
Office Hrs: 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m., Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (360) 696-6100 or (800) 345-9984
Fax: (360) 696-6491
TDD: (360) 690-4633
E-mail: vancouver-dcs@dshs.wa.gov

Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat,
Lewis, Pacific, Skamania
and Wahkiakum

Wenatchee

Wenatchee Field Office
Street address:
515 Grant Road,
East Wenatchee, WA 98802
Mailing address:
PO Box 2929
Wenatchee, WA 98807-2929
Office Hrs: 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m., Mon.- Fri.
Phone: (509) 886-6800 or (800) 535-1113
Fax: (509) 886-6212
TDD: (509) 886-6833
E-mail: wenatchee-dcs@dshs.wa.gov

Adams, Chelan, Douglas,
Grant and Okanogan

DCS Offices

Counties served

Yakima

Yakima Field Office
1002 North 16th Avenue
PO Box 22510
Yakima, WA 98907
Office Hrs: 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m., Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (509) 249-6000 or (800) 441-0859
Fax: (509) 576-3776
TDD: (509) 575-2675
E-mail: yakima-dcs@dshs.wa.gov

Kittitas and Yakima



Division of Child Support